



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Folsom Field Office  
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Folsom, CA 95630  
[www.blm.gov/ca/folsom](http://www.blm.gov/ca/folsom)

### Leasing Recommendations for Oil and Gas Lease Parcels West and Southwest of Yuba City EA CA-180-08-22 Decision Record October 2008

## 1.0 Introduction and Background

BLM has received expressions of interest from PPC Land Consultants for oil and gas leases on two parcels in Sutter County. Within these parcels of land the United States owns a 50% undivided interest in the mineral estate acquired under the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation Act. Based on information presented in the EA, correspondence with Federal, State and local government officials, comments from the general public and recommendations from BLM specialists, the following constitutes my decision.

## 2.0 Decision

### 2.1 Alternatives Considered but not Selected

A "No Leasing" alternative was considered. Under this alternative, oil and gas leases would not be issued for the two parcels for which expressions of interest have been made. Exploration and development of potential oil and gas resources on these parcels would not occur. Existing uses of the land would remain unchanged.

### 2.2 Decision and Rationale

Based on information in the EA and consultation with my staff, I have decided to implement the preferred alternative as described in the EA. Two parcels will be offered for competitive oil and gas leasing. Parcel A will be available for leasing under a limited surface use stipulation that will restrict lease operations so that potential impacts to the giant garter snake, a federally threatened species, would be avoided or mitigated. Parcel B will be available for leasing under standard lease stipulations. There are no time restrictions on the implementation of this decision.

## 3.0 Consultation and Coordination

The limited surface use stipulation to protect giant garter snake habitat in Parcel A was developed through informal consultations with the USFWS. The Bureau of Land Management will initiate formal Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the FWS for each application for permit to drill within this lease parcel to determine if this federally threatened species would be affected by the proposed activity.

Cultural resource studies conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act included consultations with Native American contacts. The Enterprise Rancheria tribe commented that if "resources" (presumably Native American graves and archaeological deposits) are to be affected or are discovered during lease operations, a professional archaeologist and tribal monitor should be brought in to assess them. There is no indication that leasing the subject parcels for oil and gas development would negatively affect Native American religious practices or significant traditional cultural properties.

State and county governmental agencies and owners of the private surface within the subject parcels were also consulted. Information pertinent to the environmental analysis was provided, but no comments on BLM's proposal to lease parcels for the exploration and development of oil and gas were made.

#### **4.0 Public Involvement**

The EA was available for a formal 15-day public comment period in October of 2008 as posted on the BLM Folsom Field Office's internet website. No public comments were received.

#### **5.0 Plan Consistency**

Based on information in the EA, the administrative record, and input from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the 2008 Sierra Resource Management Plan for the BLM Folsom Field Office.

#### **6.0 Administrative Remedies**

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, E-1712, Sacramento, CA 95825.

The effective date of this decision (and the date initiating the appeal period) will be the date this notice of decision is posted on the BLM Folsom Field Office's internet website.

  
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William S. Haigh  
Field Manager, Folsom Field Office

10/17/2008  
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Date